



**Natural Features
Protection Review
Board
Minutes
May 28th, 2025
Held at City Hall
Commission Chambers 4:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order: Director Martin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Members absent: Director Rowe, and Director Bassett

1. Excuse Absent Board Members: The motion to excuse absent board members was made by Director Hollander and supported by Director Murgia, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Director Hollander, supported by Director Fredrickson, motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from April 22nd, 2025, NFP Review Board Meeting made by Director Murgia supported and passed unanimously.

D. General Citizen Comments

E. Board Comments

No comments



F. New Business

1. Kalamazoo County Club Legacy Golf Course Project at 1609 Whites Road

Director Stemple recused himself from this one because of his relationship with some of the people involved in the project.

Site plan review is scheduled for June 4th and has been brought in front of the NFP twice before, related to a dimensional variance request for the pump house back in February 2024 and December 2024. NFP involvement is primarily because of Whites Lake, which is located on the southern boundary of the property. They are protected slopes, protected trees, and woodlands scattered throughout the site. 3 resources come into play, water resources standard, there's a 25 ft water resources setback. Protected tree standard, few pockets of trees throughout the site, some of which have protected trees within them. The Woodland standard applies to the wooden areas on the edges of the property. Protected slopes, especially within 500 feet of Whites Lake. The staff recommendation from what is received is not to recommend full NFP site plan approval at this time. We want to explore potentially moving underground utilities out of the slope faces and protected slopes within 500 ft of Whites Lake. Justification for protected tree removals and also a potential slope restoration plan and planting plan that can be part of the soil erosion and soil control plan for the project.

Presentation by John Fulling, Superintendent at Kalamazoo Country Club and from Hurley and Stewart, Tim Stewart, Eric Barkovich and Michael Lowe. Also, JJ Hen representing the ownership of the Club.

Director Martin motioned to approve NFP site plan for the Kalamazoo County Club Legacy Golf Course Project at 1609 Whites Road, conditional upon providing a slope restoration plan and plating plan with SESC plans for slopes within 500 ft of Whites Lake. Moved by Director Fredrickson and 2nd by Director Murgia, the motion passed unanimously.

2. City of Kalamazoo Water Station #5 Improvements at 2045 E Michigan Avenue

Current pump station for over 100 years and is zoned for limited manufacturing or M1, utilities and public services are permitted uses in this zone district. Redevelopment of utility consolidation plan with some expansion on site that involves pump stations 5 and 14 and create a new treatment facility that can treat PFAS and meet regulatory standards. Pre-site plan application has been submitted and is moving towards site plan review. Standards that apply are water resources, wetland, protected tree and woodland protection. Recommendation from staff is for a conditional approval based on full replacement tree list with species and their location, clarifying the tree protection fencing and full site plan approval for the site.

Presentation given by City of Kalamazoo Water Resource Division, Eric Sajtar and Assistant City Engineer Water Resources, Anna Crandall.

Director Martiin motioned to approve City of Kalamazoo Water Station #5 Improvements at 2045 E Michigan Avenue, conditional upon on full replacement tree list with species and their location per NFP Ordinance and prior to staff full site plan approval, clarifying the tree protection fencing and full site plan approval for the site. Moved by Director Hollander and 2nd by Director Fredrickson, the motion passed unanimously

3. NFP Site Plan for the Verburg Park Improvement Project at 669 Gull Road

Located right along the western bank of the Kalamazoo River in the Northside Neighborhood and is currently zoned live work 2, parks open space and preserves are permitted in this zone district. The proposed plans are to improve the amenities on site adding a new kayak launch, a visitor shelter, and a bicycle pump track. It is moving through the development process and full site plan approval. Rare species review was required and documentation was provided, standards for this project are water resources and wetland as well as EGLE permits required. Will have Soil Erosion and Soil Control plans and storm water management requirements that will be handled by our Civil Engineers in the site plan review process and meet the requirements for public notice. Recommendation from staff is conditional approval based upon full site plan review committee approval and all proper State, Federal and Local permits are on file.

Presentation given by Rachel Hughes Nilson, Landscape Architect with OCBA Landscape Architects, Patrick McVerry, Director of Parks and Ashton Anthony, Deputy Director of Parks.

Director Martiin motioned to approve NFP Site Plan for the Verburg Park Improvement Project at 669 Gull Road, conditional on full approval by the Site Plan Review Committee and required permits related to Natural Features by any Local, State or Federal Agencies by on-file with the City of Kalamazoo. Moved by Director Fredrickson and 2nd by Director Murgia, the motion passed unanimously



Question?

Public Comments:

Unfinished Business

1. NFP Board Work Session

A compliance staff member will be at the June meeting with a presentation and to answer questions.

Talked with City Attorney about the NFP guide and if we can provide connections to existing resources for example, lists of contractors and their fields. We can point to certain websites or State sites that can supply a list so we are not showing preference in the professional resource.

Staff Reports and Update

Director Martin, Chair will be terming off so we will be looking for a new member for the NFP Committee.

Communications and Announcements

None

Adjourn Meeting

Director Martin adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm